

REMARKS

After entry of this Amendment, the pending claims are: claims 1, 2, 4-8, 13-22, 24-28, 30-33, 40-42 and 47-50. The Office Action dated May 13, 2008 has been carefully considered. Claims 9-12, 29, 34-39 and 43-46 have been canceled without prejudice. Applicants explicitly reserve the right to file one or more continuation and/or divisional applications. Claims 3 and 23 were previously canceled without prejudice. The Examiner is thanked for indicating that claims 26, 29 and 30 would be allowable if rewritten into independent claim form to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Independent claim 1 has been amended to include the limitations of claim 29 including any intervening claims. Claim 26 has been amended into independent claim form. Claim 30 has been amended to correct dependency. Accordingly, no new matter has been added. Reconsideration and allowance of the pending claims in view of the above Amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

In the Office Action dated May 13, 2008, the Examiner:

- rejected claims 1, 2, 6, 7, 8, 11, 13, 19, 28, 34, and 40-42 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 3,867,728 to Stubstad *et al.* (“Stubstad”);
- rejected claims 35, 36, 37 and 39 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,645,248 to Casutt (“Casutt”) in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,120,539 to Eldridge *et al.* (“Eldridge”);
- rejected claims 1, 4, 5, 9, 10-12, 14-22, 24, 25, 27, 31-35, 38, and 43-46 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Casutt in view of Eldridge and in further view of U.S. Patent No. 6,120,539 to Arnin *et al.* (“Arnin”);
- indicated that claims 26, 29 and 30 would be allowable if rewritten into independent claim form to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims; and

- allowed claims 47-50.

INDEPENDENT CLAIM 1

Independent claim 1 has been rejected as being unpatentable over Stubstad. In addition, independent claim 1 has been rejected as being unpatentable over Casutt in view of Eldridge and in further view of Arnin.

The Examiner is thanked for indicating that the subject matter of dependent claim 29 was allowable. Independent claim 1 has been amended to include all of the limitations of dependent claim 29 including any intervening claims. As such, it is respectfully submitted that independent claim 1 is allowable over Stubstad, Casutt, Eldridge and/or Arnin, either alone or in combination. Withdrawal of these rejections and allowance of independent claim 1 is respectfully requested.

Furthermore, as claims 2, 4-8, 13-22, 24, 25, 27, 28, 30-33 and 40-42 all depend from independent claim 1, it is submitted that these claims are equally allowable. Withdrawal of these rejections and allowance of claims 2, 4-8, 13-22, 24, 25, 27, 28, 30-33 and 40-42 is also respectfully requested.

INDEPENDENT CLAIM 26

The Examiner is thanked for indicating that the subject matter of dependent claim 26 was allowable. Dependent claim 26 has been written into independent claim form. As such, it is respectfully submitted that independent claim 26 is allowable. Allowance of independent claim 26 is respectfully requested.

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CONCLUSION

No fee is believed due for this submission. If, however, the Commissioner determines otherwise, the Commissioner is authorized to charge any fees which may now or hereafter be due in this application to Deposit Account No. 19-4709.

In the event that there are any questions, or should additional information be required, please contact Applicants' attorney at the number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

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